

Remarks/Arguments

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the specification, amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

B. Specification

The abstract had been objected to because it includes the implied phrase "The invention relates," which should be deleted.

The abstract has been amended and is now deemed in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b).

C. Claim Status and Comments

Claims 1 and 3-6 are pending. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled and incorporated into claim 1. Claims 3 and 5 have been amended to change dependency to claim 1 and to provide proper antecedent basis where applicable. Claim 4 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis where applicable. Finally, claim 6 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis where applicable and to remove unnecessary reference characters.

D. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-6 had been indicated as allowable by the Examiner if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. The limitations of claim 2 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, as amended, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art references independently or in combination. Since claim 1 is patentable over the prior art references, claims 3-6, which ultimately depend upon claim 1 are patentable as well.

E. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-6 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

- a. In claim 2, the limitation "the angles which lie opposite one another between the two upper side faces and the two lower side faces are cut off at right angles with respect to the axis of symmetry" is not fully understood.

Claim 2 has been canceled and incorporated into claim 1. Therefore the rejection is moot. However, as added to claim 1, the limitations of claim 2 have been more clearly defined.

- b. In claim 3, the term "preferably" is not understood. Specifically, the Examiner noted it is unclear as to whether the "perpendicularly inserted holes" are being positively claimed.

Claim 3 has been amended to remove the term “preferably.” Claim 3, as amended, is now definitive.

F. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Grunze, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,582,483) in view of Rader (U.S. Patent No. 3,667,821).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 2, which had been deemed allowable by the Examiner. As amended, the claimed invention is patentable over Grunze, *et al.* in view of Rader.


G. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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